

Remarks for Ambassador Kirby
Moldova Corporate Social Responsibility Conference
November 8, 2007

I am very pleased to be here today with such a distinguished group of business, government, donor, and NGO leaders to discuss Corporate Social Responsibility and its role in Moldova.

Corporations that promote social responsibility embody the principles that the United States seeks to promote around the world – innovation and leadership, transparency and accountability, conscience and compassion, freedom and human rights. Recognizing the importance of the private sector in development, the U.S. Government has invested over 2 billion dollars in creating public-private alliances to improve social and economic conditions in developing countries.

And today, more so than ever before, the private sector is joining the international community in promoting sustainable development. Our goals and interests are the same. We want: stable, democratic societies; healthy and educated populations; effective governments; economic stability and a prosperous people; and clean environment.

To achieve economic, social and democratic progress, we must work together. As part of our efforts to help Moldova expand its economy and thereby reduce poverty, the U.S. Government is supporting the development of a vibrant private sector. One example is our work in regulatory reform, where we are helping to reduce the burden of costly and time-consuming government regulations.

Another example is the Threshold Country Program, where we are working to reduce corruption – a major barrier to economic growth. We believe these programs help build a foundation for innovative private sector initiatives, such as corporate social responsibility, which will accelerate Moldova's development.

As business leaders in Moldova, you are uniquely placed to lead by example. By incorporating socially responsible practices, your companies can act as agents of change by encouraging Moldovan businesses and government agencies to be ethical, to follow the rule of law, to be accountable to stakeholders and to strive for efficiency.

It is my belief that corporate social responsibility will be an integral part of Moldova's future progress. And I wish you success in your endeavors.

I want to congratulate the many corporate sponsors of this event -- as well as the American Chamber of Commerce, the Eurasia Foundation, and UNDP -- for making this event possible. I hope you have a very productive day.

Thank you.